

CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone and at least one additional opioid analgesic, both effecting opioid analgesia, in amounts sufficient to potentiate a synergistic antinociceptive response.
2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the opioid analgesic is selected from the group consisting of morphine, morphine-6-glucuronide, 6-acetylmorphine, and codeine.
3. A method of providing analgesia to a subject in need thereof comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone and at least one additional opioid analgesic, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount and a duration sufficient to potentiate an antinociceptive response.
4. A method of providing analgesia to a subject in need thereof comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone and administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one additional opioid analgesic, wherein the pharmaceutical compositions are administered in an amount and a duration sufficient to potentiate an antinociceptive response.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein L-methadone is administered in a dosage range from about 1 mg to about 60 mg.
6. The method according to claim 4, wherein L-methadone is administered in a dosage range from about 2 mg to about 10 mg.
7. The method according to claim 4, wherein the opioid analgesic is morphine.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein morphine is administered in a dosage range from about 0.1 mg to about 60 mg.
9. The method according to claim 7, wherein morphine is administered in a dosage range from about 1 mg to about 50 mg.
10. The method according to claim 4, wherein the opioid analgesic is morphine-6-glucuronide.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein morphine-6-glucuronide is administered in a dosage range from about 1 mg to about 60 mg.
12. The method according to claim 10, wherein morphine-6-glucuronide is administered in a dosage range from about 5 mg to about 15 mg.
13. The method according to claim 4, wherein the opioid analgesic is codeine.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein codeine is administered in a dosage range from about 10 mg to about 500 mg.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein codeine is administered in a dosage range from about 100 to about 200 mg.
16. The method according to claim 4, wherein the opioid analgesic is 6-acetylmorphine.
17. The method according to claim 15, wherein 6-acetylmorphine is administered in a dosage range from 1 mg to 30 mg.
18. The method according to claim 16, wherein 6-acetylmorphine is administered in a dosage range from 7 mg to 15 mg.
19. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a racemic mixture of DL methadone having at least 65% L-methadone.
20. The method according to claim 3, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a racemic mixture of DL methadone having at least 65% L-methadone.
21. The method according to claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone is a racemic mixture of DL methadone having at least 65% L-methadone.
22. The method according to claim 3, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a racemic mixture of DL methadone and the antinociceptive response is therapeutic for moderate or severe pain.
23. The method according to claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone is a racemic mixture of DL methadone and the antinociceptive response is therapeutic for moderate or severe pain.
24. A method for potentiating an antinociceptive response by providing analgesia from L-methadone and at least one additional opioid analgesic in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone and at least one additional opioid analgesic in an amount and a duration sufficient to potentiate an antinociceptive response.
25. A method for potentiating an antinociceptive response by providing analgesia from L-methadone and at least one additional opioid analgesic in a subject in

24

need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising L-methadone and administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one additional opioid analgesic, both in an amount and a duration sufficient to potentiate an antinociceptive response.